

## **Mapping and Assessment Subcommittee of the Arizona Governor's Forest Health Advisory Council**

Meeting Minutes: July 8, 2004 - Thursday

Location: Black Canyon Conference Center, Phoenix

Attendees: Gene Trobia, State Cartographer's Office  
Glen Buettner, State Cartographer's Office  
Tom Carlson, Arizona Partnership for Forest Health  
Brooke Gebow, University of Arizona  
Tom Swetnam, University of Arizona  
Marc Kaplan, Coronado National Forest  
Kathy Hemenway, Arizona Fire Map Project (ASLD/EECO)

### **Action Items:**

- Hemenway (7-8-04): Create an "Open Issues" list to report to the Governor's Councils. This action item was assigned at the Joint Council meeting. This can be our action items list.
- Hemenway (7-8-04): Find out the status of mapping work supporting Community Wildfire Protection Plans in certain critical areas, and report as to what the issues are in getting going. Specifically, check into the status in Payson and Prescott, two of the critical areas. This action item was assigned by Tom O'Halleran during the Joint Council meeting. Kathy is due to report back to Tom in a couple of weeks and he will make calls before the next Governor's Council meeting (August 12).
- Subcommittee (7-8-04): Figure out how to track the status of projects relative to CWPPs and authorities in the Healthy Forests Restoration Act. There was concern expressed in the Governor's Councils meeting that we track the CWPPs and what they say about work on federal land, and then track progress to make sure that that work is handled in conformance with the HFRA. There was also concern expressed that we follow how this all conforms with the WFLC/NASF document "Field Guidance: Identifying and Prioritizing Communities at Risk," with the WGA 10-Year Implementation Plan, and with the White Mountains Stewardship Contract. In addition, we need to keep track of how Cooperative Forestry dollars are used.

Trobia (6-10-04): Contact the Attorney General and prepare information for Kirk Rowdabaugh to take to the Policy Subcommittee regarding the problem that by law the state cannot give data to commercial ventures without considering the commercial value of the data. It was remarked that this is a major inhibitor in sharing data with commercial partners with whom we share interests, such as the insurance industry. It was further remarked that it may be possible to get an exclusion for data sharing for public safety. Gene will pursue the issue and get back to Kirk so that he can bring the problem to the attention of the Policy Subcommittee.

7-8-04: Gene reported that there has been some progress on this. He agreed to send out a summary in email.

Cook (6-10-04): Provide White Mountains data to the State Cartographer's Office and provide updates to keep the data fresh once an arrangement is in place for data transfer (e.g., FTP).

7-8-04: Kathy agreed to contact Jeff about providing to the Arizona Map Project some initial data for exploratory purposes.

Subcommittee (6-10-04): Develop specifications for mapping data to be provided to the state as part of the reporting requirements for State Fire Assistance grants. We will need to identify the information we want SFA recipients to provide, acceptable formats for the data, and reporting procedures and schedule. This will be due by January. A short statement that such data will be requested will need to go out in the announcement about SFA grant opportunities in the fall.

#### Next

Meeting: The next meeting will be a day-long working session on developing a data model for Community Wildfire Protection Plans. We are targeting late August, and will notify everyone when a date has been set.

#### Future

Meetings: It has turned out to be difficult to meet on the same day as the Governor's Councils, as their scheduling is typically in flux until the last minute. For the future, we will need most likely to schedule our meetings separately.

For the Governor's Councils, meeting announcements and agendas are posted to the Governor's Forest Health Council website [www.governor.state.az.us/FHC](http://www.governor.state.az.us/FHC). To get onto the public mailing list for the

councils, contact Heather Garbarino at the Department of Commerce, [heatherg@azcommerce.com](mailto:heatherg@azcommerce.com).

We will not meet on the same day as the Governor's Councils in August, as the Governor's Council's meeting date (August 12) conflicts with the ESRI User Conference in San Diego.

#### Calendar:

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|-------------------|---|
| July 13, 10 am:   | Web demo by RedZone Software, <a href="http://www.redzonesoftware.com">www.redzonesoftware.com</a> . RedZone has developed software for use on PDAs and laptops for doing hazard assessment on homes and feeding the data into a shapefile and uploading to a centralized database (e.g., like Arizona Fire Map). If you are interested, and would like to participate in a future demo, please contact Kathy. RedZone is currently working on developing a plan to fit their software in with work on Community Wildfire Protection Plans. |
| July 16, 9:45 am: | Gene and Kathy will be making a presentation on Arizona Fire Map to the GIS Subcommittee of the National Association of Counties in Phoenix.  |
| July 21, 1 pm:    | White Mountains GIS Users Group meeting, Navapache Electric, Pinetop-Lakeside   |
| July 22, 9 am:    | Northern Arizona GIS Users Group meeting in Flagstaff, including presentation by Kathy. If you are interested in attending, contact Brad Cheff, <a href="mailto:bcheff@co.coconino.az.us">bcheff@co.coconino.az.us</a> .  |
| August 11, 6 pm:  | Kathy is hosting a SIG at the ESRI Users Conference in San Diego on wildfire hazard mitigation and Community Wildfire Protection Plans  |
| August TBD:       | Working meeting on the data model for CWPPs.  |
| October 27-29:    | AGIC Users Conference, including possible workshops on Arizona Fire Map and developing a statewide data integration network   |
| November 4-6:     | Firewise "Backyards and Beyond" Conference, Denver. See <a href="http://www.firewise.org/2004conference">www.firewise.org/2004conference</a> . This conference includes many talks relevant to mapping and assessment, particularly at the neighborhood-level.  |

## **Minutes**

### **Discussion on CWPP Data Models, Data Quality, Etc. – Tom Swetnam**

Tom raised the issue that it would be good to develop best practices guidelines for the geospatial data that is used in CWPPs. This can help with data quality control as well as providing a data model that can jump start groups that aren't yet up and running with doing the mapping work involved in CWPPs. To address the issue, we decided to hold a day-long working meeting in late August to bring people who have worked on CWPPs together with geospatial technologists from the universities, and to go over the geospatial analysis involved in CWPP development. Out of this we plan to develop a "starter kit" data model that groups can use to get going, and also to develop a basis for establishing some guidelines for reviewing CWPPs.

Tom pointed out that to the extent that CWPPs specify work to be done by the federal agencies on federal land, the CWPP treatments will be subject to the NEPA process, and as a consequence the quality of the analysis will come under the scrutiny involved in NEPA review.

### **Cooperative Fire Planning in Southeastern Arizona – Brooke Gebow**

Brooke Gebow from the School of Natural Resources at the University of Arizona was our guest speaker. She presented projects she is currently working on that involve doing NEPA analysis for fire management plans for the National Park Service. NEPA is the National Environmental Policy Act, which many people are familiar with through Environmental Impact Statements and Environmental Assessments. The NEPA process requires analysis of the environmental effects of actions through disclosure in an open public process. The NPS is requiring new FMPs by the end of the year.

Brooke noted that to map vegetation and fuels they trained people in a one-week class taught by a representative from the Coronado National Forest. People were trained in Fire Regime Condition Class assessment.

### **Review of Draft Announcement for Arizona Fire Map – Glen Buettner**

Glen presented a draft of an announcement for Arizona Fire Map. The purpose of the announcement is to gather contact information from groups throughout the state that are involved in wildfire hazard mitigation work, and that are prospective users of Arizona Fire Map and also that may provide data for it. A recent draft is included in Appendix A. It is expected that the announcement will go out in late July.

## Appendix A: Draft Announcement for Arizona Fire Map

This is a draft of the announcement. It is the version that is targeted for mailing to fire chiefs. The second sentence will be modified for different groups. The other groups we are targeting include: League of Cities and Towns, Arizona County Supervisors Association, Northern Arizona GIS Users Group, the BIA and tribes, and the mailing lists for the Mapping & Assessment Subcommittee.

### ANNOUNCEMENT - ARIZONA FIRE MAP

As we all know, wildland fire is a major issue for Arizona today. Your fire department plays an important role in the statewide effort to address this issue.

A project is now underway to collect, consolidate, and map information about defensible space projects, forest fuel treatments, and wildfire related data throughout the state. The ARIZONA FIRE MAP (Fuels, Information, Restoration, and Education - Mapping and Assessment Project) will provide an Internet based mapping tool that will serve state, regional, and local decision makers and improve the efficiency of statewide resource management.

One of the first steps in collecting and distributing data will be the creation of a statewide directory of individuals involved in forest/fuels treatment, defensible space projects, and data collection activities - as well as those needing access to the final data and maps.

Please direct this email to the appropriate person(s) in your organization. We ask that they take just a few moments and let us know a little about your involvement in wildfire prevention, mitigation, response, or planning activities. Over the coming months we expect to be communicating on a regular basis and will use this contact information to make sure that we are reaching the right people with the right information.

Thank you in advance,

The ARIZONA FIRE MAP Team

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The ARIZONA FIRE MAP is a collaborative effort of the Arizona State Forester's Office, the State Cartographer's Office, the University of Arizona, Eastern Arizona Counties, Northern Arizona University, the US Forest Service, the Arizona Interagency Coordinating Group, and many others.

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Please return the following information with any additional comments.  
(E-mail: [AZFIREMAP@azstatefire.org](mailto:AZFIREMAP@azstatefire.org), FAX: 602-542-3249)

Organization:  
Contact Name:  
Job Title:  
Address:  
Phone:

Email:

Are you involved in:

1. creating defensible space or other fuels treatment?
2. educating the public regarding hazards and risk?
3. working with the Firewise program?
4. creating a Community Wildfire Protection Plan?
5. doing hazard assessments?
6. developing maps or GIS data related to wildfire and hazards?
7. producing data or reports related to wildfire or hazards?
8. working on an evacuation or multi-hazard plan?

9. other: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments:

Other organizations or individuals in your area that should be contacted?

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